

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 8, which is now cancelled. Amended claim 1 is directed to a method of alerting a user of a wireless communications device, and requires combining a first audio file and a second audio file to form a combined audio signal according to synchronization information stored in memory of the wireless communications device. The combined audio file is rendered to the user responsive to a predetermined event. Combining the audio files according to the stored synchronization information allows the wireless communications device to synchronize the playback of the audio files.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under §103 as being obvious over Sexauer in view of Curran. The Examiner admits that Sexauer does not teach or suggest synchronizing the playback of the first and second audio files, but asserts that Curran does. Curran, however, discloses a system and method for synchronizing the audible and visual components of a fire alarm system. Notably, Curran teaches applying a reference synchronization pulse to trigger a series of strobe light flashes or audio tones. According to Curran, the synchronization pulse may be used to render a standardized Code 3 signal consisting of “three half-second horn blasts separated by half-second intervals of silence followed by one-half second of silence.” *Curran*, col. 4, ll. 41-45 (emphasis added). Thus, Curran renders each sound separately. The synchronization pulse merely defines when each sound in the series of sounds should begin. Separate audio tones that are rendered in series are not combined audio signals.

In addition, there is no motivation to combine Sexauer with Curran. The timing control device of Curran causes the alarm units to render sounds in series. Therefore, adding the timing control device to Sexauer (who combines multiple individual signals) would also cause the Sexauer circuit to render audible signals in series. This is *inapposite* to the fundamental goal of Sexauer, and thus, Curran actually *teaches away* from a combination with Sexauer.

Moreover, no one skilled in the art would ever look to a fire alarm system to synchronize audio signals in a wireless communications device.

Neither Sexauer nor Curran teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, forming a combined audio signal from first and second audio files according to synchronization information stored in memory of a wireless communications device. Therefore, amended claim 1 and each of its remaining dependent claims are patentably non-obvious over the cited art.

Claim 16 has been also amended to include the subject matter of claim 18, which the Examiner rejected under §103(a) over the same references and for the same reasons as those cited above. Amended claim 16, however, also recites combining first and second audio files according to synchronization data stored in memory. Thus, for reasons similar to those stated above, neither Sexauer nor Curran teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, amended claim 16 or any of its remaining dependent claims.

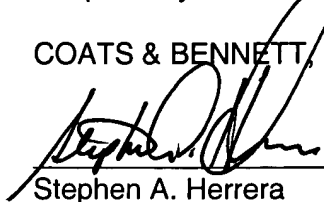
Applicant has also amended claim 24 to include the subject matter of its dependent claim 30. The Examiner rejected claim 30 under §103 over Sexauer in view of Curran for the same reasons as those stated above. Amended claim 24 now recites that a controller uses timing data stored in the memory of the wireless communications device to synchronize the playback of the audio files as a combined audio signal. Accordingly, for reasons similar to those stated above, neither reference teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, amended claim 24 or any of its remaining dependent claims amended.

Finally, claims 7, 9, 19-20, and 31 have been amended to ensure that they comport with the amendments to their respective independent claims. No new matter has been added in any of the amendments.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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